

May 8, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to indicate that the amendment that Senator Maresh has offered us is certainly an improvement over the bill as it was a few weeks ago, or a few days ago. I do and I have indicated to Senator Maresh, that I feel very strong about elected boards. I had indicated that there were technical problems with the amendment that were adopted and I tried to get them worked out. I have not had that time to do it, but personally I will not vote for the Maresh amendment although I say I think that it is an improvement but I do have a strong preference for that elected board and that is the position I will take. I think that there are a couple of things to keep in mind. I think that were going to see a number of commodities, farm commodities attempting to do similar types of check off programs in the future. The thought had occurred to me that there might be some merit in just leaving 74 there and work over the summer for an overall program. That could be applied to a all commodities and for a portion of money going to research and every session it seems like we need to hunt up some money for specialized research and some agricultural areas and sometimes it is appropriated and sometimes it is not. But I had felt that that might be a more desirable thing to try and work out a really workable program, straight across the board, that could be applied to as I say to all of the various commodities. I guess that is all that I have to say.

PRESIDENT: Senator R. Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President, I would like to direct a question to either Senator Maresh or Senator Warner. Senator Maresh I might ask you since Senator Warner has spoken to elections on commodity groups like this, could you give me some idea in states that have this type of procedure what the cost per voter is in this type of an election.

SENATOR MARESH: Senator Lewis, I can tell you per voter and it is quite expensive and a very small percentage turns out to vote. Usually it is about only 10% of the people that vote and it is estimated that in Nebraska that it would be about \$20,000 in money that could be used for research and farm market development. Money that is badly needed for research in soybean production and I...like I said it would be a problem to determine who is a qualified voter to start with. I have no argument with having elections in the future according to the bill if the people wish to have them, but I think that we have to determine who the growers are first. There is no way of determining this at the present time.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: This could not be held as part of a regular election? Would it have to be a special election?

SENATOR MARESH: According to the Warner amendment it would have to be a special election and his proposition calls for a three day election and that alone would be very, very, a... quite expensive, the judges salary at \$2.50 per hour and all the printing of the ballots, the mileage and all the other